

## BOOK REVIEW

ELLEN SOUSA, FOREWORD BY WILLIAM CULLINA. 2011. **The Green Garden: A New England Guide to Planning, Planting, and Maintaining the Eco-Friendly Habitat Garden.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-59373-091-8, pbk.). Bunker Hill Publishing, 285 River Road, Piermont, New Hampshire 03779, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.bunkerhillpublishing.com). \$34.95, 224 pp., color throughout, 7" × 10".

A growing number of people are becoming more agricurious. They are interested in how things are grown, land stewardship, animal husbandry, and soundscape ecology.

Thus, planning an eco-friendly habitat garden and landscape is like becoming a creative gourmet cook orchestrating a perfect dinner party with tried and tested recipes. Ellen Sousa's *The Green Garden: A New England Guide to Planning, Planting, and Maintaining the Eco-Friendly Habitat Garden* is the ideal manual/reference book to use if one wants to establish a notable green garden, particularly for those wanting to stop the deterioration of the natural world around us. Ms. Sousa presents new concepts for gardening that allow the gardener to work with nature to develop an area's natural ability to maintain its own health and sustainability. Her cogent writing style is a true testimonial that she is a cognoscente of natural habitat gardening. She and her husband live on a farm landscaped as a Certified Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Waystation. Renowned native plant author William Cullina's Foreword in the book is a validation that Ms. Sousa is the real deal!

Even though the title suggests it is only about the New England area of the country, it is not. Remember, the fight for establishing eco-friendly habitats is a universal challenge.

Fifty-plus contributing photographers fill this book with amazing wildlife photos and native plants. It is not only a wonderful primer for those just learning about natural habitat gardening but also a valuable educational resource for seasoned gardeners seeking to increase their eco-friendly habitat gardening knowledge, designed and written in a practical, no-nonsense style with a comprehensive bibliography and index.

A quick glance at the Table of Contents denotes the principles Ms. Sousa cites are applicable from forests to seashores, from lots to farmlands and, yes, to what Victorian gardeners called a "moon garden" of fragrant white-flowering plants. These are for gardeners who are only able to enjoy their garden during the evening hours.

In addition, the book includes a guide of the best plants for the region. The plants are grouped by plant type in alphabetical order by genera. Common names are listed after each plant genus name. A key of numerous icons is included.

Thoreau wrote "the world is but a canvas for your imagination"—when are you going to begin developing your own Eden?—Kay M. Stansbery, Ph.D., Library Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.